

D¹ the shoe upper (3) is completed, the last (5) with the formed upper thereon, is mounted on the apparatus (1) and is moved to a workstation (20) specifically designed for injection moulding of a rubber sole (4) onto the upper.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 21, and cancel claims 43, 50-54 without prejudice as follows. Applicant also attaches a marked-up copy of amended claim 21, with additions underlined and deletions bracketed.

Sub F¹ 21. (Twice Amended) A method of making an item of footwear, the method comprising the steps of:

forming an upper for the item of footwear on a forming last, the forming last including a body having the general shape of a foot around which the upper of the footwear item is formed in a series of separate operations, the last body having a base corresponding to a sole of the foot shape;

D² providing an apparatus having a plurality of separate workstations for performing discrete fabrication operations on the upper, and including a moulding workstation for moulding a rubber sole;

removably mounting the forming last with the formed upper thereon on the apparatus;
moving the last with the formed upper thereon sequentially through the plurality of separate workstations to the moulding workstation; and

moulding a rubber sole onto the formed upper while it is still mounted on the forming last, the forming last being heated before and/or during the moulding step, wherein the step of heating the forming last includes heating the base of the last body, whilst substantially preventing the heating of parts of the body other than the base.

REMARKS

In response to the Final Office Action mailed January 2, 2002, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claim 21 has been amended. Claims 22, 23, 43, 50-54 have been